

Applicants assert that a search into prior art with regard to the invention of the different Groups is so related that separate significant search efforts are not necessary. Furthermore, a search of the prior art covering both apparatus and method claims of the present invention has already been performed prior to the first Office Action previously issued. Accordingly, there is no serious burden on the Examiner to collectively examine the different claim Groups of the subject application. Therefore, restriction is not proper under M.P.E.P. §803.

Further, Applicants urge the Examiner take into consideration that the subject matter of each of the claim Groups is linked by a common inventive concept.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement. It is also submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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